

Drug Therapy of Cough

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Cough Therapy

Bronchodilators

- Theophylline
- Salbutamol & terbutaine

Antitussives

Centrally acting

(Agonists at μ - and κ -opioid receptors \rightarrow \ominus medullary cough center)

- Codeine, pholcodine
- Dextromethorphan & Noscapine

Peripherally acting

(protective coating over the irritated pharynx)

- **Local anesthetics** (*lidocaine, tetracaine*)
- **Demulcents** (*licorice, honey*)
- **Humidifying aerosols** (*eucalyptol*)

Mucolytics & Expectorants

(++*mucus secreting cells* \rightarrow \uparrow *mucus secr.* \rightarrow \downarrow *mucus viscosity* \rightarrow \uparrow *ciliary movement* \rightarrow \uparrow *phlegm expectoration*)

- N-acetylcysteine (*depolymerization*)
- Bromhexine
- Ambroxol
- Guaifenesin
- Ammonium chloride
- Na & K citrates
- KI

	Codeine	Dextromethorphan Noscapine
Tolerance	✓	x
Analgesic & sedative properties	✓	x
Respiratory depression	✓	x